

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY:MB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 104702

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: NOON BRIEFING EXCERPTS

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT NOON BRIEFING,
FRIDAY, APRIL 30:

QUOTE: Q: FRED, THERE IS A STORY ON THE WIRE THAT
THERE WAS A RADIATION PROBLEM AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN
MOSCOW AS LONG AGO AS 1959 DURING THEN VICE PRESIDENT
NIXON'S TRIP. I UNDERSTAND THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN
INVOLVED IN CHECKING THIS STORY, AND ALSO THE HEALTH
PEOPLE HERE HAVE GIVEN A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION TO ONE OF
THE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS, TO WHOM THE STORY IS ATTRI-
BUTED. CAN YOU GIVE US A FILL ON WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

A: WITH REGARD TO YOUR SECOND QUESTION ABOUT THE SECRET
SERVICE AGENT, I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON WHETHER OR NOT
HE RECEIVED A PHYSICAL. ON THE STORY ITSELF, WE HAVE
CHECKED AND RECORDS REVEAL NO BASIS FOR THIS STORY.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN YOU ARE DENYING IT?

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A: I WILL JUST SAY THAT WE HAVE CHECKED OUR RECORDS

THAT FAR BACK AND DONE EVERYTHING WE COULD TO RUN IT DOWN. AND OUR CHECKS THUS FAR DO NOT REVEAL ANY BASIS FOR THE STORY AS IT APPEARED ON THE TICKER THIS MORNING.

A: HAS ANYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT QUESTIONED EITHER OR BOTH OF THE FORMER AGENTS?

A: I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, KEN--WHETHER OR NOT WE HAVE QUESTIONED THEM.

Q: COULD YOU CHECK AND SEE WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED ON IT NOW? AND ALSO COULD YOU CHECK AND SEE IF GOLDENS DID HAVE A PHYSICAL HERE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS? AND, IF HE DID, WHETHER THERE IS ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON IT--WHY HE ASKED FOR A PHYSICAL.

A: WITH REGARD TO A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF A GIVEN INDIVIDUAL, I DOUBT THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO GET YOU A REPLY ON THAT. I CAN CERTAINLY FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT THE DEPARTMENT HAS TALKED TO THE AGENTS WHO ARE THE SOURCE FOR THE WIRE STORY THIS MORNING.

Q: JUST TO PURSUE THIS A LITTLE FURTHER, IF YOU FIND NOTHING IN YOUR RECORDS TO SHOW THAT THIS STORY HAS ANY BASIS, DOES THAT NECESSARILY PRECLUDE THE INCIDENT FROM HAPPENING? SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ARE NOT STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES. THEY ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SO WOULD IT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THAT YOUR RECORDS WILL EVEN HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A: I DON'T THINK I CAN SAY ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION I HAVE, KEN, THAT IT WOULD PRECLUDE THE EXISTENCE OF SOMETHING. I CANNOT PRECLUDE THE EXISTENCE OF ANYTHING. I AM JUST SAYING THAT WE HAVE CHECKED AND WE FIND NOTHING IN THE RECORDS THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THE STORY.

Q: YOU SAY THERE IS NOTHING IN YOUR RECORDS THAT DEALS UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH THIS INCIDENT AT ALL, OR WAS THERE ANY KIND OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT IT?

A: I CANNOT REALLY GO PAST HOW I HAVE DESCRIBED OUR CHECK. WE FIND NOTHING THAT SUBSTANTIATES THE STORY AS IT APPEARS ON THE TICKER.

Q: WHICH DOESN'T SAY THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE

FILES DEALING WITH THE ALLEGED INCIDENT.

A: I REALLY DO NOT KNOW, FRANKLY.

Q: COULD YOU CHECK ON THAT? YOU MAY HAVE SOMETHING
IN YOUR RECORDS WHERE YOU SAY THIS INCIDENT DID NOT
HAPPEN, OR THERE IS NO BASIS FOR THE REPORT. IT MAY
BE THAT YOU ARE SAYING THERE IS NOTHING IN THE RECORDS
DEALING WITH THE INCIDENT AT ALL. JUST BLANK.

A: I DON'T THINK WE ARE GOING TO GET MUCH MORE ON THAT,
FRANKLY, KEN. WE HAVE CHECKED, AND WE DON'T FIND
ANY SUBSTANTIATION FOR THE STORY AS IT APPEARED.

Q: PERHAPS YOU COULD CHECK ON THE POINTS I HAVE
RAISED HERE: WHETHER THERE IS NOTHING IN THE RECORDS
AT ALL, OR THERE IS SOME FINDING IN THE RECORDS THAT
DISCOUNTS THE RELIABILITY OF THIS STORY.

A: WE WILL KEEP IT IN MIND, CERTAINLY. END QUOTE. SISCO

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